



# CLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2008

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CLASSIFICATION  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
ROUTINE  
PRECEDENCE

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Date: 2001

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FOREIGN OFFICE HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING FILL-IN ON  
ARREST OF NAUMANN, SCHEEL, AND OTHERS IN BRITISH ZONE  
LAST NIGHT. SO FAR AS FOREIGN OFFICE AWARE, GROUP DID  
NOT HAVE A NAME AND WAS SCARCELY EVEN AN ORGANIZATION.  
IT WAS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY AND WAS DIFFERENT FROM  
EITHER THE BRUDERSCHAFT ORREHMS PARTY. IT WAS RATHER  
A CONSPIRACY OF A VERY SMALL NETWORK HEADED BY NAUMANN  
WHO WAS "THE SPIDER AT THE CENTER OF THE WEB" AND WHO  
WAS APPOINTED IN HITLER'S TESTAMENT TO SUCCEED GOEBBELS.  
THE SIZE OF THE GROUP IS UNCERTAIN; FOREIGN OFFICE  
REPRESENTATIVE AT A GUESS PUTS IT AT "PERHAPS 20,"  
ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE BEEN 200. ITS PURPOSE WAS  
CLEARLY EVENTUALLY TO SEIZE POWER. ITS METHOD WAS TO  
PLANT ITS PEOPLE IN OVERT ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITICAL  
PARTIES AND TO MAKE USE OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE. BRITISH  
HAVE BEEN AWARE OF ITS ACTIVITIES FOR "BEST PART OF  
TWO YEARS." GROUP HAS BEEN KEEPING IN THE BACKGROUND,  
TRYING TO MAKE CONTACTS ALONG LINES INDICATED, BUT DURING  
THE LAST FEW MONTHS THEY HAVE DIRECTED THEIR CONTACTS  
MUCH MORE TOWARDS RESPECTABLE POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTICULARLY  
THE RIGHT-WING OF THE FDP.

BRITISH HAVE SECURED MOST OF THEIR INFORMATION THROUGH  
INTERNAL CENSORSHIP, THAT IS TELEPHONE AND LETTER INTERCEPTS.  
THEREFORE SUCH INDICATIONS AS THEY HAVE ABOUT ACTIVITIES  
OF THE GROUP ARE FAIRLY FIRM BUT NOT THE SORT OF THING  
WHICH LENDS ITSELF TO USE IN PROSECUTION. THEY ARE NOT  
EVEN SURE THAT THEY CAN PROSECUTE, AND THIS WAS ONE OF  
THE CHIEF REASONS FOR THEIR TAKING ACTION ON THEIR OWN  
RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ARTICLE 2 (E) OF THE OCCUPATION  
STATUTE RATHER THAN LEAVING IT TO THE GERMANS, SINCE THE  
GERMANS COULD ONLY HAVE BROUGHT COURT ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT  
NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. ANOTHER REASON FOR BRITISH  
ACTING ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY WAS THAT GROUP WAS  
"PRETTY MUCH ALL IN BRITISH ZONE." IN THIS CONNECTION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COORDINATION WITH STATE

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE ADDED THAT THEY KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT WHETHER GROUP WAS IN TOUCH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH EASTERN ZONE OR SOVIETS, BUT POSSIBILITY CLEARLY NOT EXCLUDED.

WHEN KIRKPATRICK SAW ADENAUER LAST EVENING TO INFORM HIM IN ADVANCE OF INTENDED ACTION, ADENAUER TOOK NEWS CALMLY, SHOWED NO SIGNS OF PIQUE, STATED THAT HE WAS AGREED WITH WHAT BRITISH PROPOSED TO DO, AND IN EFFECT WISHED THEM LUCK. FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT BRITISH HAD ACTUALLY ALLOWED THEMSELVES SUFFICIENT TIME LEGALLY TO CALL OFF ENTIRE OPERATION IF ADENAUER HAD RAISED A SERIOUS DOUBT. A THIRD REASON FOR BRITISH TAKING ACTION ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WAS TO AVOID EMBARRASSING ADENAUER BY IN ANY WAY IMPLICATING HIM.

NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM REPORTS GUIDANCE BRITISH GIVING THEIR PRESS.

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